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Newhaven Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year ended 31st December 1925.

To the Members of the Newhaven Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December 31st 1925.

During the year 1925 the health of the District was good, and there was a remarkable freedom from Zymotic Disease. In all 12 cases were notified which were as follows:- Scarlet Fever 7: Enteric Fever 2: Erysipelas 2: and Diphtheria 1:. The case of Diphtheria was, however, a very doubtful one. There was one death from Enteric Fever giving a Zymotic Death Rate of ·15 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death rate was 12·58, slightly less than in 1924 when it was 12·7, the population being estimated at 6,665. The chief causes of death were Respiratory Disease, Heart Disease, and Cancer.

The Birth Rate again shows a decline being only 16·8 as compared with 18·9 in 1924.

Of the deaths recorded 45·2 % was of persons over the age of 65 years as against 34·5 % in 1924.

The Infant Mortality was low being only 35·7 as compared with 80 in 1924.

This is the lowest Infantile Mortality since 1920.

Fourteen cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital during the year 1925. A table of these cases is given in the body of the report. One case of Enteric Fever proved fatal.

It will be seen that this report is something more than the usual annual report: it comprises a survey of the progress or otherwise made in improving the Sanitary Condition of the district during the past five years.

It is pleasing to note that some good work has been accomplished in this direction: on the other hand I regret to say there has been a deplorable omission to remedy some insanitary conditions existing in the district. I would especially lay stress on the indifference shown in regard to the housing conditions in parts of the district: I trust the Council will take prompt steps to remedy the existing state of affairs.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Council for their unfailing courtesy, and also to the Officials for the ready help afforded me in carrying out my duties.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Rodie Parkhurst.

Medical Officer of Health.

May 29th 1926.

1. General Statistics.

Area.....1100 Acres
Population Census 1921-6534 : 1925 Estimated 6665.
Number of inhabited houses 1921- 1297: 1925 - 1353
Number of families or separate occupiers 1921 - 1730:
1925 - 1780:
Rateable Value.....£31, 604. 3. 0.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....£ 114. 10. 0.
Amount of Poor Law Relief 1921 - £825.0.0.
1922 - £1456.5.6.
1923 - £1426.9.1.
1924 - £1330.9.10.
1925 - £1348.19.6.

2. Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	M.	F.	Total.	
Births (Legitimate	46	58	104)	
(Illegitimate	2	6	8)	112

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of Child Birth -Nil.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 Births. 35.7
Legitimate 3
Illegitimate 1 Total 4.
Deaths from Zymotic Disease 1.---Enteric Fever

3. Notifiable Disease during the year.

During the year 1925, forty-two cases of Infectious Disease were notified: they were as follows:- Pneumonia 16, Tuberculosis 14, Scarlet Fever 7, Enteric Fever 2, Erysipelas 2, and Diphtheria 1. This last case was of a very doubtful nature. The cases of Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever and Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

During the past five years this district has been very free from Zymotic Disease, the number of cases notified being as follows:- Enteric Fever 9, Diphtheria 5, Scarlet Fever 35, Erysipelas 4.

There has only been one case of Puerperal Fever during the past five years.

Table of Infectious Diseases notified during the past 10 years.

Year	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	Aver:
Total Notifications	12	3	11	2	26	14	18	40	15	27	16·8
Enteric Fever	2	1	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	1·1
Diphtheria	1	0	0	0	4	8	7	12	2	20	5·4
Scarlet Fever	7	2	6	1	19	5	6	23	9	3	8·1
Erysipelas	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	5	2	3	1·7
Puerperal Fever	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	·5
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table of Cases of Tuberculosis and deaths during the year 1925.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								1
1			1	1				
5			2					
10				1				
15								
20		2	1		1	2		
25								
35	2	1		1	1			
45	1	1			1	2		
55								
65 & Over.								
Totals	3	4	4	3	3	4	0	1

All deaths from Tuberculosis were duly notified.

4. Causes of Sickness.

No special causes of sickness and invalidity arose during the year: the chief causes of death were as follows:- Heart Disease 15, Cancer 14, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 7.

5. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available for the District.

Nursing. The Newhaven Urban and District Nursing Association supply One General Nurse and two Midwives, onefor the Urban District and the other for part of the Newhaven Rural District. The latter Nurse also carries on the work of the Urban District Nurse during her absence, and assists in stress of work. She also acts as Health Visitor for the Newhaven Urban District and part of the Newhaven Rural District. The Nursing is provided by the Local Authority assisted by a grant from the County Council. There is a Maternity & Child Welfare Centre: fort-nightly meetings are held where Mothers can attend with their infants for instructions in their up-bringing.

Clinics. The Newhaven Urban District Nurse attends the School Clinic and also the Dental and Eye Clinics held at the Schools, under the arrangements made by the County Council.

Hospitals. There is no Hospital in the District for the treatment of Tuberculosis, but many cases have received monetary aid from the Urban Council to enable them to go for Sanatorium Treatment. The Isolation Hospital is provided for the reception of cases of Fever occurring in the Town and Port: this Hospital receives a grant from the County Council under the condition that cases should be taken in if needed from certain outlying districts should their own hospitals be full.

The Smallpox Hospital is the East Sussex Western Smallpox Hospital situated at Chailey to which the Newhaven Urban Council contributes a subsidy.

There is no Maternity nor Childrens Hospital in the District nor is there any Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate children and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities. An Ambulance is provided for the conveyance of Infectious Disease cases to the Isolation Hospital and a second Ambulance is also provided for the removal of non-infectious and accident cases. These are both Horse Ambulances.

Isolation Hospital.

The condition of this Hospital is excellent, and there is a capable staff: during the year 1925 fourteen cases were admitted for treatment, a table of which is subjoined. One death occurred from Enteric Fever.

Table of cases treated at the Isolation Hospital in 1925.

Nature of Case	Newhaven	Newhaven Port	Seaford.
Scarlet Fever	7		3
Ptomaine Poisoning		1	
Enteric Fever	2		
Diphtheria	1		
Total	10	1	3

6. Laboratory Work.

No bacteriological or pathological examinations are undertaken locally, but arrangements are in force with University College by which examination of specimens is undertaken: the charge for this is borne by the Newhaven Urban District Council. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners in the District: the Council grants a fee of 5/- for the injection of all original cases, and 2/- for each contact case.

7. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

List of Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Amendment Act Part iii
Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1890
Public Health Amendment Act 1907, Parts iii, iv, v, vi, x and Sections 15 - 29 inclusive, and 31, 32, 33 of Part ii.

Water Supply. The Water supply of the District is mainly derived from two sources. 1. From the Newhaven & Seaford Water Company, who obtain water from a well sunk into the chalk at Poverty Bottom. 2. From the Southern Railway Company who derive water from a well sunk into the chalk at Denton. Both these supplies are of excellent quality. A few houses in the district derive water froma separate well: it is of good quality.

Closet Accommodation.

All premises in the District are supplied with water closets connected with the sewer with the following exceptions.

Premises with Cesspools.

West Pier	3
Cemetery	1
Court Farm Cottages	2
Peacehaven Estate	26

Premises with Earth Closets.

Ark Cottages	2
New Road	17
West Pier	3
Oyster Pond Cottages	2
Golf House	1
The Bungalow, Church Hill	1
Fort Glacis	3

During the past five years five premises, four with cesspools and one with earth closets have been converted into the Water Closet System.

Scavenging.

The House refuse of the District is still collected weekly and carted into a field in the District. This method of disposal is highly objectionable and it is time that a Destructor should be provided for the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the District and the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1925.

The following is a list of the number of houses visited by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

1.	In connection with Infectious Disease	24
2.	In connection with the Housing & Town Planning Act	36
3.	Various	27
	Total	87

The Sanitary Inspector carries out a regular inspection of the District and I subjoin an extract from his report.

Abstract from Inspector's Report.

The Inspector reports that during the year 1925 he has made 340 visits in connection with various nuisances: in connection with these visits 98 preliminary notices and 9 statutory notices were served. Six complaints were received during the year, all of which were dealt with and remedied.

The following is a list of nuisances which have been dealt with and remedied.

1.	Insufficient Dustbins	23
2.	Drains repaired, cleaned and renewed	26
3.	Defective Fittings to W.C.'s and Sinks	30
4.	Filth Accumulations	6
5.	Cleansing of Houses	21
6.	Defective Roofs and Gutters	9
7.	Defective Walls Ceilings and Floors	21
8.	Damp Houses	14.
9.	Defective Windows, Doors and Paving Yards	23
10.	Inadequate provision for cooking and washing	12
11.	Defective Cesspools	11
12.	Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	2
	Total	198

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

1. Lodging Houses There is now only one Lodging House in the District. This is licensed for the accommodation of 73 people. It is inspected regularly and the Sanitary Condition found satisfactory.
2. Dairies and Cowsheds. There are three Cowsheds in the District and eleven premises for the sale of Milk. They are all registered and inspected periodically, and have generally been found in a satisfactory condition. Action had to be taken in respect of one cowshed on account of uncleanliness and defective paving: the condition was remedied.
3. Slaughterhouses. There are three slaughterhouses in the District, two of which are registered and one licensed. The structural conditionof the two registered slaughterhouses is unsatisfactory. It is desirable, to facilitate the inspection of meat at the time of slaughtering, that there should be as few slaughterhouses as possible and I have repeatedly urged the provision of a Public Abattoir in the District.

Under the new Public Health Meat Regulations which came into force on April 1st 1924, notification of the slaughter of all animals for human consumption was made compulsory. This has proved of great assistance in respect to the inspection and examination of all home killed meat. Under these regulations 450 notifications of slaughter have been received, 72 of which came from allotment holders. 824 carcases of animals have been examined and the following have been found unfit for human consumption: they were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

Carcases of Beef	2	Tuberculosis
Fore Quarters of Beef	2	"
Carcase of Pig	1	"
Head of Bullock	1	"
48 Lbs of Beef		Decomposed.
Livers- 2 Bullocks and 5 Pigs		Cirrhosis
Livers- 1 Bullock		Necrosis
Livers- 4 Bullocks		Flukes.
Livers- 4 Sheep		Flukes.
Livers. 1 Bullock		Echinococcus
1 Bullock and 1 Pig		Abscess.

The Council has adopted the bye-law by which the Humane Slaughterer is enforced, and it is now in use in all slaughterhouses in the District.

Food.

A. Milk Supply. The inspection of the supply of milk to the district is undertaken by the County Council: the milk is of very good quality.

B. Other foods. Regular inspection is made of all premises where food is prepared for sale, and their condition has been generally found satisfactory. There are seven bake-houses in the district none of which are underground. The regulations are duly observed, and the sanitary condition is good. A record of food found unfit and condemned will be found under the heading Slaughterhouses. The inspection of food in the district has been much facilitated by the New Public Health Meat Regulations.

Premises where cases of Infectious disease have occurred are disinfected by Formalin. In cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer disinfection has generally been carried out on the death or removal of the patient. Infected bedding and clothing are treated in the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital.

8. The Public Health Officers of the Council consist of a Medical Officer of Health part time, and a Sanitary Inspector whole time.
The staff of the Isolation Hospital consists of Matron, two Assistant Nurses, a Caretaker and a Cook.
The Medical Officer of Health is Medical Superintendent.

Housing.

During the past year 28 new houses have been erected. In all during the past 5 years 58 new houses have been erected.

This has to some extent relieved the congestion of the town: on the other hand such houses as have been built on the new Peacehaven Estate have had no effect on the congested condition.

During the past year 36 houses have been inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, and generally have been found in a fit state for human habitation.

Much old property in the district has been condemned for years and should be demolished and new premises erected.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-
(a) Total.....28
(b) with state assistance under the Housing Acts 1919,1923 or 1924:- (i) By the Local Authority..... 0
(ii)By other bodies or persons.....13

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.
Inspection-(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....90
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District)Regulations 1910.....36
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a stateso dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.. 0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 13

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 19

3. Action under Statutory Powers.
A-Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c Act 1919
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- (a) By Owners..... 7
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close..... 0

B- Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners..... 9

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... 0

C- Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning &c Act 1909

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders..... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit..... 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 0

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 0

Vaccination.

Only 23 cases of primary vaccination were performed during the year 1925: this is equal to 20.6of the total births. It would not be at all surprising to see an outbreak of Smallpox in the district.

I append a table of General Statistics for the last 10 years.

Year	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916
Population estimated to middle of the year.....	6667	6605	6517	6460	6534	6284	6173	6601	6444	6700
Birth Rate per 1000 of THE Population.....	16.8	18.9	20.0	18.5	22.1	20.0	21.14	24.56	19.56	19.5
Death Rate of Infants under 1yr per 1000 births	35.7	80.0	57.46	74.4	56.0	55.44	100.	58.46	90.9	55.1
Total Death Rate per 1000 of the pupulation.....	12.58	12.7	10.34	12.5	9 .6	8 .2	13.2	16.6	1424	15.8
Net Death Rate per 1000 of the Population.....	12.4	12.4	9.9	12.5	9.6	9. 0	13.5	13.1	12.0	14.59
Zymotic Death Rate per1000	0.15	0.3	0	0	0.3	0	0.32	0. 8	0.72	0.78
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1000.	1.05	1.2	1.06	1.3	0.77	0.9	1.4	1.9	1.2	1.6
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases per 1000	2.4	3.3	2.13	2.3	1. 7	1.8	1. 9	2.6	3.0	4. 0
Senile Mortality: Deaths at 65 and over, as per centages of total deaths.....	45.2	34.5	42.7	35.3	30.6	40.6	33.7	15.0	34.3	32.6

Factories and Workshops.

The Medical Officer of Health is asked to report on the Factory and Workshop Act in so far as it concerns his department, and to forward a copy of his report to the Secretary of State. There are 13 Factories and 26 Workshops in the district which are regularly inspected and found to be in a sanitary condition. One complaint was received from the Factory Inspector as to the sanitary accommodation in a workroom: a notice was served and the condition was remedied.

The measure of Progress made in the area during the preceding five years in the improvement of Public Health.

The following improvements have been undertaken by the Council during the last five years.

1. Drainage. A system of surface water drainage has been installed whereby the overcharging of the soil drainage with surface water has been remedied.

By this new system the flooding of the lower parts of the town which so often took place during heavy rain has been practically overcome.

2. Open Air Space. An open space of 17½ Acres has been acquired by the Local Authority in perpetuity for the use of the inhabitants of the district.

3. Cemetery Extension. An extension of three acres has been made to the existing cemetery: this should meet the needs of the district for many years to come.

4. Widening of Streets &c. Certain portions of Lewes Road and High Street have been widened. Several roads have been made up and taken over under the Private Street Works Act.

5. Recreation Ground. The old pond in the Recreation Ground has been filled up, and additional ground provided for various sports.

This amount of progress is satisfactory, but I regret to state there are some important improvements needed in the District in respect to which no steps have been taken by the Council: these matters have been mentioned in my Annual Reports for many years past.

1. House Refuse. The House Refuse of the district is still collected in an open cart and conveyed to a field in the district. The dust from this cart is liable to be blown about and to cause disease: the refuse mound in the field is a great attraction for rats and flies, and the smell arising from it during hot weather is very objectionable. For many years I have urged the desirability of a Destructor for the district.

2. Slaughter Houses. There are two antiquated and ill constructed Slaughter houses in the town: these should be abolished and a Public Abattoir provided. For this purpose the third slaughterhouse in the district is quite suitable.

3. Housing. The Council have failed to take any steps whatever for the improvement of the housing condition of the district. As long ago as 1919 I reported that there were over 60 houses in the district which were unfit for human habitation. Since then practically nothing has been done in this matter. These houses should be demolished and suitable houses erected in their place for artisan dwellers. This matter is of urgent importance and it is to be hoped that steps will be taken by the Council at once to ameliorate this serious condition.

(Signed) Rodie Parkhurst
Medical Officer of Health.

May 29th 1926.